

Appl. No. 10/707,809

Amdt. dated December 10, 2004

Reply to Office action of September 10, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

What is claimed is:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A lockout device comprising:

an inner piece and an outer piece formed in the shape of half cylinders, each of the inner piece and the outer piece having a pair of side walls and a circumferential wall having an inner surface and an outer surface, wherein said inner piece and said outer piece are telescopically engaged such that said inner piece is substantially nested within said outer piece when said lockout device is in an opened position and substantially extended from within said outer piece when said lockout device is in a closed position;

a rail projecting from the outer surface of the circumferential wall of said inner piece; and

a track formed within the inner surface of the circumferential wall of said outer piece, wherein said rail slides along said track to provide telescopic movement of said inner and outer pieces.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (original): The lockout device of claim 1 further comprising one or more locking tabs, wherein said locking tabs include a means for securing the lockout device in the closed position.

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~The lock-out~~ lockout device of claim 1 further comprising an interlock, wherein said interlock includes a crossmember located on said inner piece that engages

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a portion of the outer piece when said lockout device is in the closed position, wherein said engagement of said crossmember and said portion of the outer piece prevents further telescopic movement of said pieces.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A lockout device comprising:

an inner piece including a rail, said rail being T-shaped; and  
an outer piece including a ~~slot;~~ track, wherein said rail slides along said ~~slot~~ track  
to move said lockout device to and from a closed position and an open position.

Claim 8 (original): The lockout device of claim 7, wherein said inner and outer pieces are formed in the shape of half cylinders.

Claims 9-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (original): The lockout device of claim 7 further comprising one or more locking tabs.

Claim 13 (original): The lockout device of claim 7 further comprising a locking tab located on each of said inner piece and said outer piece.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The lockout device of claim-14 13 further comprising a set of openings located in each of said locking tabs.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The lockout device of claim-15 14, wherein said openings on said locking tab of said inner piece align with the openings on said locking tab of said outer piece when said lockout device is in said closed position.

Claim 16 (original): The lockout device of claim 7 further comprising a recessed surface on an outer surface of said inner or outer piece.

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Claim 17 (original) The lockout device of claim 7 further comprising an opening in a portion of at least one of said inner and outer piece, wherein a portion of an object secured by said lockout device can extend out from within said lockout device through said opening when said lockout device is in the closed position.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): A lockout device comprising:

- a) an interior closed ended half cylinder nested within an exterior closed ended half cylinder, said interior and exterior half cylinders each having a circumferential wall having an inner surface and an outer surface;
- b) a T slot comprising a T slot track formed in the inner surface of the circumferential wall of the exterior half cylinder and a T slot rail attached to the outer surface of the circumferential wall of the interior half cylinder, wherein the T slot rail slides into and out of the T slot track when the lockout device is moved between a closed position and an open positions;
- c) an interlock attached to one end of the T slot, comprising a bar crossmember disposed on the T slot rail and one or more extended-portions of the edges of the T slot track that extend inward into the track, wherein the bar crossmember contacts said one or more extended portions edges when the interior half cylinder is fully telescoped out of the exterior half cylinder to place the device in the closed position; and
- d) at least one locking tab attached to each half cylinder, each locking tab having one or more locking openings wherein said locking openings overlap when said lockout device is in the closed position.

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Claim 20 (new): A lockout device comprising:

an inner piece including a rail;

an outer piece including a track, wherein said rail slides along said track to move said lockout device to and from a closed position and an open position;

a crossmember formed as part of the rail, said track including two edges, one or more of said edges having an extended portion that extends inward into the track;

wherein said crossmember engages said one or more extended portions of said edges of the track when said lockout device is in said closed position, the engagement of said crossmember and said extended portions of said edges of the track prevents further rotational movement of said inner piece relative to said outer piece.

Claim 21 (new): The lockout device of claim 20 further comprising one or more locking tabs, wherein said locking tabs include a means for securing the lockout device in the closed position.

Claim 22 (new): The lockout device of claim 20 wherein said inner and outer piece can be positioned in at least two positions;

(i) a closed position wherein an object is substantially surrounded by said pieces; and

(ii) an open position wherein an object can move into and out of said pieces, wherein said open position provides a total surface area of the lockout device that is approximately one-half of the total surface area of the lockout device in said closed position.

Claim 23 (new) A lockout device comprising:

an inner piece and an outer piece, each of the inner piece and the outer piece having an outer surface and an inner surface, wherein said inner piece and said outer piece are telescopically engaged such that said inner piece is substantially nested within said outer piece when said lockout device is in an opened position and substantially extended from within said outer piece when said lockout device is in a closed position;

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a rail projecting from approximately the center of the outer surface of said inner piece; and

a track formed within the inner surface of said outer piece, at approximately the center of said inner surface, wherein said rail slides along said track to provide telescopic movement of said inner and outer pieces.

Claim 24 (new): The lockout device of claim 23 further comprising one or more locking tabs, wherein said locking tabs include a means for securing the lockout device in the closed position.

Claim 25 (new) The lock out device of claim 23 further comprising an interlock, wherein said interlock includes a crossmember that engages a portion of the track when said lockout device is in the closed position, wherein said engagement of said crossmember and said portion of the track prevents further telescopic movement of said pieces.

Claim 26 (new): The lockout device of claim 23 further comprising a recessed surface on an outer surface of said inner or outer piece.

Claim 27 (new) The lockout device of claim 23 further comprising an opening in a portion of at least one of said inner and outer piece, wherein a portion of an object secured by said lockout device can extend out from within said lockout device through said opening when said lockout device is in the closed position.